

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 20, 2004.

27483

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner: Dinh Q. Nguyen

Art Unit: 3752

Confirmation No.: 7260

Attorney Docket No.: 11694/04099

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

In response to the Office action mailed on May 18, 2004, Applicants hereby amend the claims and otherwise respond as follows. The shortened statutory period for response expired on August 18, 2004, accordingly Applicants hereby petition for a one month extension of time. A check is enclosed in the amount of \$110.00 for payment of the one month extension of time. The extended due date for this response therefore is September 18, 2004. It is believed that there is no additional fee associated with the filing and consideration of this amendment, however, **should the Commissioner decide that any fee or fee deficiency is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any and all fees incurred as a result of entering this amendment and response to deposit account number 03-0172.**

Please amend the present application as follows:

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